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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Talking Points for Ms. Rachel Odede, UNICEF Representative at

**Welcome and Opening Session of “Capacity Building on Public Policy
Development, Review, Evaluation and Coordination for the Acceleration of the
SDGs in Namibia”**

20 October 2020. 8.30.am – 9.am

Droombos Lodge, Windhoek

Introduction

- Good morning Colleagues, ladies and Gentlemen.
- I recognize the presence of my sister Ms. Wilhencia Uiras, the Executive Director of the National Planning Commission (NPC), under whose leadership we find ourselves here today.
- I extend gratitude to Ms. Mary Hangula, who as the Moderator will be carrying us throughout the 3 days of this workshop.
- All protocols observed.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to sincerely appreciate, from the utmost depth of my heart, the efforts and hard work of all the teams, starting with the NPC, UNDESA, UN Namibia, GIZ, and all our partners and resource persons.

- Today is a momentous occasion: What seemed like an idea months ago is now becoming a reality as we finally get to the implementation of the capacity building trainings.
- I wish to kindly take a few seconds, for us to remember how far we have come.
- I personally vividly remember when we Officially launched this work, under the leadership of Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, the Director General of the National Planning Commission (NPC), and Mr. Sen Pang, the UN Resident Coordinator, in Namibia.
- As the Representative of UNICEF in Namibia, it has been my utmost privilege to be a part of this initiative, witnessing the fruits of our efforts by Delivering Together.
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Our work has been conceptualized and shaped in a new context for us, with the new normal of COVID19.
- Technology has been a key tool in our work, as virtual meetings have been the means through which our preparations, including briefings and discussions have taken place.
- Yet, even then, there is a key ingredient that has held us together.
- It is the spirit of partnership.
- Partnership has brought us together because of our shared objective to contribute to the strengthening of *“Public Policy Development, Review, Evaluation and Coordination for the Acceleration of the SDGs in Namibia.”*
- Partnership has enabled us to pool our resources, skills and expertise, in order to achieve our shared objectives.
- Partnership is the fuel that will keep us going, until the finish-line.

- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- In line with SDG 17 on *Partnerships for the Goals*, I wish to recommit the United Nations as a partner to the Government of Republic of the Government of Namibia, in its efforts towards implementing the National Development Plans (NDPs), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), leveraging our joint United Nations Partnership Agreement Framework (UNPAF).
- I also thank the Government for trusting the United Nations to support this work.
- I wish you fruitful deliberations during these coming days.
- I thank you. ***